

HOUSE BILL 384

By Williams

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4 and Title 68, relative to the Tennessee council on autism spectrum disorder.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 3, Part 27, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) There is created the Tennessee council on autism spectrum disorder to establish a long-term plan for a system of care for individuals with autism spectrum disorder and their families. The council shall make recommendations and provide leadership in program development regarding matters concerning all levels of autism spectrum disorder services, including, but not limited to, health care, education, and other adult, adolescent, and children's services.

(b) The council shall consist of the following members:

(1) The commissioner of intellectual and developmental disabilities or the commissioner's designee;

(2) The commissioner of health or the commissioner's designee;

(3) The commissioner of education or the commissioner's designee;

(4) The commissioner of human services or the commissioner's designee;

(5) The commissioner of commerce and insurance or the commissioner's designee;

(6) The deputy commissioner of the bureau of TennCare or the deputy commissioner's designee;

(7) The commissioner of mental health and substance abuse services or the commissioner's designee;

(8) One (1) representative of the council on developmental disabilities; and

(9)

(A) Six (6) adults who have a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder, or who are either family members or primary caregivers of persons with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder. Two (2) of these adult members shall represent each grand division of the state, and these persons shall be appointed by the governor after the governor receives nominations from Tennessee not-for-profit organizations that serve persons with autism spectrum disorder and their families.

(B) Initial appointees to the council pursuant to subdivision

(b)(9)(A) shall serve staggered terms as follows:

(i) Persons appointed from the western grand division shall serve initial terms terminating on June 30, 2019;

(ii) Persons appointed from the middle grand division shall serve initial terms terminating on June 30, 2020; and

(iii) Persons appointed from the eastern grand division shall serve initial terms terminating on June 30, 2021.

(C) Following the expiration of members' initial terms as prescribed in subdivision (b)(9)(B), all appointments to the council shall be for terms of three (3) years and shall begin on July 1 and terminate on June 30, three (3) years thereafter.

(D) All members shall serve until the expiration of the term to which they were appointed and until their successors are appointed and qualified.

(E) Successors shall be appointed from the same grand divisions from which the members they are replacing were initially appointed.

(F) Members shall be eligible for reappointment to the council following the expiration of their terms, but shall serve no more than two (2) consecutive three-year terms.

(c) A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. The governor shall appoint a chair from the members named to the council.

(d) The council shall meet quarterly and may meet more often upon a call of the chair.

(e) The council shall be administratively attached to the department of intellectual and developmental disabilities. All appropriate agencies of state government shall provide assistance to the council upon request of the council.

(f) If vacancies occur on the council for any cause, the vacancies shall be filled by the respective appointing authority within sixty (60) days for the duration of the unexpired term, if applicable.

(g) No council members shall receive compensation, nor shall members be entitled to reimbursement for actual travel and other expenses incurred in attending any meeting and in performing any duties prescribed in this part.

(h) The council shall:

(1) Assess the current and future impact of autism spectrum disorder on the residents of the state;

(2) Assess the availability of programs and services currently provided for early screening, diagnosis, and treatment of autism spectrum disorder;

(3) Seek additional input and recommendations from stakeholders, including, but not limited to, families, providers, clinicians, institutions of higher

education, and those concerned with the health and quality of life for individuals with autism spectrum disorder;

(4) Develop a comprehensive statewide plan for an integrated system of training, treatment, and services for individuals with autism spectrum disorder;

(5) Ensure interagency collaboration as the comprehensive statewide system of care for individuals with autism spectrum disorder is developed and implemented;

(6) Coordinate available resources related to developing and implementing a system of care for individuals with autism spectrum disorder; and

(7) Coordinate state budget requests related to systems of care for individuals with autism spectrum disorder based on the studies and recommendations of the council.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 1, Part 25, is deleted.

SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, including Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-29-112, the autism spectrum disorder taskforce created by Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 1, Part 25, shall terminate on June 30, 2017.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-29-239(a), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision to be appropriately designated:

() Tennessee council on autism spectrum disorder, created by Section 1 of this act;

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017, the public welfare requiring it.